



## Lesson: All About the Park (Grades 3-5)



### Introduction to the Lesson/Activity

This lesson introduces students to the significance of the National Park Service. It identifies the arrowhead as it's symbol and

establishes some of the historical events which affected the National Park Service. Lesson is geared to 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders.

### Objectives

Students will:

1. learn about the mission of the National Park Service.
2. identify the different responsibilities of the National Park Service.

3. make a connection between themselves and the National Park Service.

### Materials

- Giant Felt Arrowhead
- Giant Felt Arrowhead pieces
  - words
  - cedar tree
  - bison
  - mountain
  - water
- Samples of Arrowhead (objects):
  - Real arrowhead
  - cedar tree branch/needles
  - bison hide
  - water from the springs
  - rocks (to symbolize the mountains), cut out mountains

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## Activity

Warm Up: Ask how many students have been to Chickasaw National Recreation Area before? Ask how many have seen the NPS logo before holding up the giant arrowhead. What are some words that might come to mind when they see the arrowhead?

1. Tell the students are going to learn about the symbol of the National Park Service today.
2. Explain there are more than 390 national parks. Ask what national means (answer: for the whole country.)
3. Ask what a symbol means. (Answer: a picture that stands for something bigger.)
4. The National Park Service's main symbol is the Arrowhead (hold it up again).
5. Tell them that this symbol can be found in all of the other National Park.
6. Point out that we wear it on our uniform sleeve.

7. Ask what they think the shape of the Arrowhead represents.
8. Pass out a real arrowhead and ask if they have seen one before—who would have used it? Why? Where can we find them today?
9. Ask what they think it stands for in the Park Service (answer: cultural resources.)
10. Invite a youngster to put the giant felt arrowhead on the board.
11. Next ask about the mountains. Pass around a rock. Ask about the symbol. Wait for an answer and then put the mountain felt piece on the board.
12. Repeat with the following: trees (use cedar tree branch from park), water (from the springs), buffalo (piece of bison fur or hide), and the words.
13. When all the felt pieces are assembled and all of the objects have been introduced “quiz” them on each.
14. Tell them that next THEY get to make their own arrowhead to teach their family and friends about the National Park Service!

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## Key Vocabulary

- National Park Service
- stewardship
- preservation
- recreational
- bison
- arrowhead
- vegetation

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## Essential Questions

1. What is the responsibility of the National Park Service?
2. What does the National Park Service mean to me?
3. What does each of the symbols on the arrowhead represent?

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**Oklahoma Pass Standards**

Grade 3  
Language Arts: Oral Language/Listening and  
Speaking: Standard 1 & Standard 2

Social Studies- Standard 3 & Standard 4.2

Grade 4  
Language Arts: Standard 1.1-1.2  
Visual Art: Standard 3.2

Grade 5  
Language: Standard 1.2 Visual Art: Standard 3.2